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reputation of being a leader in this important line of business. Mr. Halbert's fidelity to the true principles of art, both theoretical and practical, has produced results that will give a quickening inspiration to American decorative design.

By way of illustrating some of his latest patterns produced in French appliqué relief, Mr. Halbert has issued a new illustrated catalogue. The designs are richly and exquisitely modeled, and every pattern will repay examination. They are delightfully free in decoration and treatment, and constitute a lesson in style which modern decorators may find expedient to study. Mr. Halbert has for many years been an apostle of the doctrine that the best way to decorate an interior is to contrast the flat effect of wall-paper with a raised surface on the ceiling. This method of ceiling decoration is a true Renaissance of the method adopted in the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras, when the ceilings of baronial halls were covered with the most exquisite traceries. While not so elaborate as the Oriental traceries of the Moors in the construction of their vaulted ceilings, it is yet in harmony with the instincts of one of the finest epochs in decorative art that the world has ever seen, known collectively as the Sarenic method. And such a style does not merely concern itself with style alone, but affords a favorable opportunity for the judicious employment of beautiful coloring. The designs manufactured by Mr. Halbert are decidedly fresh and clever, and are graceful without being heavy in treatment. He has happily avoided extreme effects of every kind, for his work is neither barbarous nor grotesque on the one hand nor too simpering and attenuated on the other, but holds steadfastly to that exquisite middle ground of beauty making handsome as well as eminently useful ornament for either wall or ceiling.

DECORATIVE NOTE.

THE library is finished in red and gold with brilliant effect, and the fireplace, which is bricked from the floor to the ceiling, reveals rich designs in carving. From this room opens the morning room, which is finished in blue and silver. The ceiling, tinted in silver, is covered with an elaborate pattern of white Escorial lace, through the fretwork of which the metallic luster glistens and forms a pattern in itself. The fireplace in this room is of Sienna marble. Above the mantelrests a mirror encased in modeling. The furniture is of silvered wood.

WOOD FLOOR FINISHING.

By A. ASHMUN KELLY.



HARDWOOD floors are perhaps the most beautiful and satisfactory of floor finishes, but the proper care required for a waxed hardwood floor almost renders such a thing an impossibility with by far the larger portion of our people, says A. Ashmun Kelly, in *Painting and Decorating*. To go over the floor two or three times a week with wax and polishing brushes, the brushes, perhaps, on the feet of servants, as in Europe, and to doff everyday shoes, and don felt slippers every time one has occasion to tread upon the delectable surface, are things hardly among the possibilities in this country. And, yet, those

at least who have been abroad and seen the marvelous polish which the waxed floors of the public halls and galleries there present, will wonder why we do not have the same thing here. Many of those floors have been polished and repolished for perhaps a century, and with the almost sacred care bestowed upon them, it is no wonder they are so beautiful and rare.

There are several methods of treating hardwood floors, and several methods of performing the same operation. One method of waxing a floor is to take white beeswax, and dissolve it in turpentine, adding a little drying japan, which will make the wax dry harder and quicker. The wax must first be melted, then add the turpentine. This mixture is made somewhat thick, and afterward is thinned down to a working consistency with linseed oil, taking great care not to get in too much oil, as this would spoil the work. The floor must be very clean to begin with. Then give it a coat of wax to fill up the pores of the wood, rubbing off the surplus wax. Allow this coat to harden. Put on another coat, which polish.

When an old floor is to be waxed, first clean it thoroughly with scouring soap, using ammonia



OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL. CARVED IN WOOD BY HERMAN SITT.